



*Sedgwick County...
working for you*

COMCARE

A Licensed Community Mental Health Center and Certified Addiction Treatment Program
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COMCARE PROPOSAL TO INITIATE A 501(c)3 NON-PROFIT PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

BACKGROUND

Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC's) in Kansas are known for their capability to supplement their funding streams by building a focus on fundraising. Fundraising is utilized to supplement billable activity and grants which empower organizations to build and promote mentally sound communities while cohesively establishing public and private partnerships. Most CMHC's in Kansas have formal fundraising and development activities. To this point COMCARE has not engaged in traditional fundraising opportunities, however have pursued external grant funding. Most current donations to COMCARE are from individuals, primarily from memorial donations, associated with completed suicides of community residents. We have the opportunity to build on giving opportunities and have developed the following plan that would allow the receipt of fundraising dollars on the front end to invest in not only mental health services but preventative suicide programming, suicide education/outreach and to support COMCARE financially.

PROPOSAL

COMCARE will establish a successful 501(c)3 non-profit organization with the following goals:

Short Term Goals:

- 1) Raise and develop monetary support from individuals, corporations, and local businesses to be donated to COMCARE to help financially support treatment provided to individuals who are uninsured or underinsured.
- 2) Build a Board of Directors that is not only familiar with COMCARE but that can promote, engage, and refer the community members of Sedgwick County to COMCARE's high quality behavioral health services.

- 3) Seek truly invested Board members who believe in partnerships between public and private organizations that can work together to impact mental health awareness and seek financial support through their robust community connections.
- 4) Provide a non-profit entity that can seek grant dollars for the benefit of Sedgwick County residents.
- 5) Transfer Mental Health First Aid training and activities to this entity so that awareness is broadened.

Long Term Goals:

- 1) Reduce the amount of financial support needed from County tax dollars by obtaining sufficient funding to help support the current level of provided services and develop enhanced programming.
- 2) Establish a non-profit independently functioning entity that could assume governance of COMCARE in the future if the Commissioners so desire. This potential future merger would allow COMCARE to receive the same non-profit status that the majority of Kansas CMHCs have today.
- 3) Develop plans to bridge the gap between public and private organizations and establish meaningful partnerships between the two that would benefit the citizens of Sedgwick County.

BENEFITS TO SEDGWICK COUNTY RESIDENTS

There are many different categories of nonprofit groups to pick from when setting up a new organization, COMCARE has chosen to set up a 501(c)3 specifically for its benefits to the community. Some of these benefits would include:

- ❖ **Tax Deductions** – 501(c)3 organizations can legally allow all contributors a tax deduction for their donations, which many foundations and corporations specifically seek out when planning to donate funds.
- ❖ **Encourage Efficient and Effective Government** – Having a public/private partnership will provide COMCARE private business expertise and promotes efficiency, effectiveness and an enhanced public image. Bringing the private sector on board will also enhance volunteerism and require less dependence on COMCARE reserves.
- ❖ **Reduction in County Funding** - The ability for COMCARE to raise funds independently with the development of this 501(c)3 would eventually start to reduce the annual increased pressure for funding requested by COMCARE for maintaining current mental health services.

benefits to Sedgwick County



- ❖ **Encourage Partnerships** - COMCARE and this new entity would be assisting to bridge the gap between public and private organizations and start to model and demonstrate how to establish meaningful partnerships.
- ❖ **Increase Awareness of Sedgwick County Needs** - The new entity will bring increased awareness not just to COMCARE but to the needs of Sedgwick County as a whole and elicit conversation to the ears of recognized and connected members in the community.
- ❖ **Decrease Cost of other County Departments** - COMCARE has already demonstrated promising outcomes from the newly established Community Crisis Center (CCC) but with increased funding from donations to serve the noninsured population. These outcomes would have potential to decrease costs for several county departments.

COMCARE has a strong connection and collaborative relationship with all parts of our community’s public safety system as well as a strong relationship with the local psychiatric inpatient services provided by Via Christi. The establishment of the Community Crisis Center (CCC) cemented these relationships further. A recent CCC summit speaker, Leon Evans from Bexar County, provided us with a vision of how our CCC could be even more affected. He also described COMCARE’s CCC as being on the cutting edge of a community approach to individuals with behavioral health needs.

During the first year of implementation of the CCC, the following outcomes were achieved:

Outcome #1

Reduction of Admissions to the State Hospital

This table shows a 50% reduction in admissions to the state hospital by serving individuals at the CCC. At approximately \$375 per trip, we were able to save \$133,500 in transportation costs.

Sedgwick County State Hospital Admissions

	2014*	2015*	Savings
Admissions	720	364	356
Cost	\$270,000	\$136,500	\$133,500

**annualized numbers based on 6 months of data from May through October*

Outcome #2

Reduction of State Hospital Bed Days

The redirection of state hospital admissions resulted in a 33% reduction of state hospital bed days. This saved the state over \$3 million.

Sedgwick County State Hospital Bed Days

	2014*	2015*	Savings
Bed Days	18,434	12,284	6,150
Cost	\$9,217,000	\$6,142,000	\$3,075,000

**annualized numbers based on 6 months of data from May through October*

Outcome #3

Reduction in EMS Transports

The table below represents savings to EMS where there were fewer EMS runs for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis and the savings associated with the fewer trips.

EMS Responses to Crisis Center

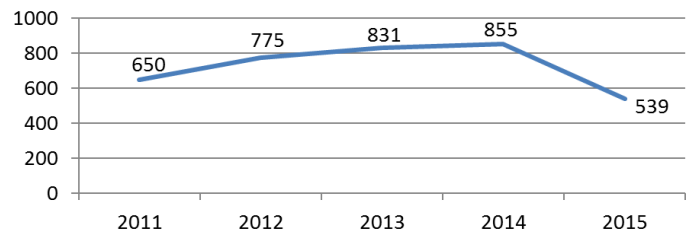
	2014	2015*	Savings
Responses	503	445	58
Cost	\$152,409	\$134,835	\$17,574

**annualized numbers based on 11 months of data January through November*

Outcome #4

Reduction in Filing of Care and Treatment Cases

The Probate Court and District Attorney’s office have acknowledged a significant reduction in the filing of involuntary petitions with the implementation of the CCC.



**2015 data is annualized based on data from January through October 2015*



RELATIONSHIP WITH COMCARE

The Community Champion is an invested prominent community member that is essential in the beginning development of the new entity. This Champion will work with COMCARE to establish a baseline for the organization. The Executive Director of COMCARE would be the only County employee needed to serve on the non-profit Board of Directors. To ensure that there is minimal burden on the county, COMCARE could serve as a liaison to the County by introducing Board members to Sedgwick County government staff, marketing the entity internally, communicating COMCARE funding needs, and providing a connection to COMCARE goals. The new 501(c)3 board members would be prominent individuals from the medical, business and philanthropy community who have an interest

and passion for fundraising. Over time, COMCARE staff support would diminish and the 501(c)3 would operate independently. COMCARE would continue to be the recipient of funds generated through various fundraising activities.

NEXT STEPS

COMCARE has a commitment from a local business developer to help form and organize the non-profit entity. This individual would be the Community Champion for this endeavor and has agreed to chair the non-profit Board, and use his personal network connections to obtain other Board members with known name recognition and demonstrated involvement in and commitment to social issues.

COMCARE and the Community Champion would strive to obtain 15-20 individuals from the community to make up the Board of Directors. These individuals must possess the skills and connections required to make this new entity successful. District Attorney Marc Bennett has also agreed to serve on this Board. A list of tasks associated with the establishment of a 501(c)3 has been developed. Once the Board is formed and bylaws established, an employee of the entity would be hired whose job would entail (1) making “asks” for donations with the help of Board members, (2) working with the Board and volunteers to establish an annual fundraising event, (3) respond to grant opportunities and (4) promote COMCARE and our services. Donated office space has already been identified and offered by an existing community partner.

COMCARE is requesting that the BOCC agree to this proposal and publically announce support of this formal public/private venture which will promote enhanced efficiency, while allowing the BOCC to maintain control over these public services.

